computer screen. More particularly, the patent is directed toward "rounding up" alphanumeric objects on a computer screen to form a more compact paragraph format. These onscreen objects tend to be separated by normally hidden object breaks, such as carriage return and tab commands, or they may be separate text objects. Note Tou col. 1, line 66 –col. 2, line 4: "The present invention provides the ablity to quickly and easily compact alphanumeric objects displayed on the screen of a pen computer system into a compact and contiguous paragraph. The process and apparatus of the present invention thus permits a user to quickly reformat text by removing superfluous carriage returns, paragraph breaks, and the like." Thus the primary goal of Tou is to compress a plurality of text objects together by removing existing formatting commands in the text objects. That is, Tou squeezes text objects together by removing formatting, and does not facilitate any formatting within a text object.

The instant rejection of claim 3 points to col. 9, lines 11-28 of Tou, in which the reference describes how selected text objects are given a compaction command by a click or tap on the selection box, whereafter the text objects are compressed within a portion of the space of the selection box. The citation goes on to state that other formatting operations can be carried out on the compacted text object, such as changing the left or right margin or moving the entire paragraph. It also states that it will not discuss this topic any further.

This citation is more evocative in its lack of disclosure than in its overt teachings. It does not teach the means nor method for undertaking any formatting task, other than condensing text objects that are selected together. Although it

suggests that further format changes may be possible, it does not teach any methodology for carrying out those format changes. Indeed, the reference mentions only "changing the left or right margin of the paragraph 73', or moving the entire paragraph 73' in a dragging process...". That narrow scope of functions is far less sophisticated that the present invention, which can change line spacing vertically, change paragraph spacing vertically, or move individual lines laterally within a text object. Tou can do none of these things.

In contradistinction, the present invention describes methods for selecting and adjusting and revising the positions and spacings of lines and paragraphs within a text object. As shown in Figures 8a-8c, the user floats the cursor over the text object 32, causing the cursor to change into a double ended arrow 34. In this condition the text content cannot be edited in any way, but the text spacing may be altered easily. For example, by clicking and dragging the arrow 34 downwardly as shown by the adjacent direction arrow, the underlying lines of text may be dragged downwardly to a new, wider spacing, as shown in Figure 8b, so that the line spacing of the paragraph under (1.) is more widely spaced.. In the same vein, the arrow 34 may be dragged laterally as shown in Figure 8c to drag an individual line leftward (or rightward, at the user's discretion), so that, as shown, the first line of paragraph (1.) is moved to the left. Note that in both examples the superjacent or subjacent text lines are not affected. Thus the format changes are applied only to the portions of the text object that are selected by floating the cursor over particular parts of the text object.

These selection criteria are spelled out distinctly in claim 3 and are entirely missing in the reference. Claims 3 states that:

> if the cursor is over a paragraph, move the paragraph the same amount as the click-and-drag movement of the mouse;
>
> if the cursor is over the top of a line, move the line the same amount as the click-and-drag movement of the mouse;
>
> if the cursor is over the left side of a line, adjust the individual left indent of said line the same amount as the click-and-drag movement of the mouse.

These selection gestures give the user easy access to a plurality of format changes merely by cursor position control. This technique is not shown in the reference, and it is clear that claim 3 is patentable over the Tou patent and should be allowed.

Note also that Tou is based in a pen-computer system using a stylus on a touch sensitive screen. Tou dwells on the "click" and "tap" gestures permitted by the stylus. However, it is well recognized that it is very difficult to float a cursor on a touch screen using a stylus, since most styli evoke a touch signal only when they contact the screen and will not move the cursor onscreen unless there is contact with the screen. Such contact, however, may be decoded as an object selection, when in fact the intent is to "float" the cursor without selecting an object or commanding an action. Thus, the pen-based computer teaches away from the claimed invention, and is not well suited for the functions and methodology of the present invention.

It is also evident that the routine depicted in Figure 6, which depicts the steps for detecting the cursor position and responding with a visual cue (cursor turns to arrow) that lets the user know that the function commanded by the floating cursor position has been implemented. Note that the Tou reference provides no such cuing to the user. Noting that deficiency in the prior art, applicant has added claims 4-6, dependent on claim 3 and reciting the steps of Figure 6 for depicting the format function that has been implemented by changing the cursor to an arrow (horizontal or vertical to show intended motion, as shown in Figures 8a-8c and explained in paragraphs 0063-0064 of the present application. This methodology is not taught nor suggested by the Tou patent, and claims 4-6 are clearly allowable over the art

All claims now presented have been indicated as allowed, and this application is now in condition for issuance. Action toward that end is earnestly solicited.

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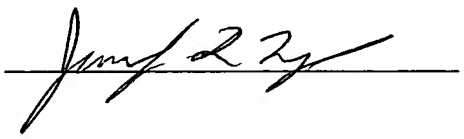

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